



GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JULY 2010

ROAD PAVES WAY FOR HOTELS

Construction on a new road and two hotels is set to begin on the site of the former River Park Apartments property.

Four years after the 22-acre property was razed, the city of Hammond has secured agreements with the owners of Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express.

Hammond officials began the process in late June when they agreed to subdivide the parcel and hired Rex Construction to build

an internal road that will provide access to both establishments.

The decisions by Hammond officials were welcome news to Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro, who believes the construction could be a catalyst for business development in Highland.

"We absolutely believe a synergy will develop among the cluster of hotels that could have a beneficial effect on businesses

in Highland," Petro said. "We are extremely hopeful the Hammond development will give Highland's new Riverfront Development District a boost.

The Riverfront District was established in 2009 to create an environment where specialty restaurants could thrive. It is believed that a hub of eateries could spur additional commercial development in north Highland. 

DETENTION POND RESOLVES WATER WOES

Councilman Brian Novak watched June 23 as a massive storm dumped more than two inches of rain in his north Highland neighborhood in less than an hour.

As in years past, the pavement around north Johnston Street quickly began filling with water.

Then, something out of the ordinary happened. As quickly as the streets had filled, they emptied.

The difference: \$3.5 million in storm water improvements that include:

- Construction of a 2.6-million-gallon storm water detention basin to hold excess water
- Installation of storm sewers
- Sewer separations along Franklin, Strong and LaPorte streets
- Emergency generators


"I live in an area of town that has historically flooded with every major rain. When this happened in June,

my wife and I watched the detention pond start to fill and the streets and yards get cleared of water," Novak said. "It was a beautiful thing to watch. It was great to see everything work as it was supposed to."

Sanitary Board President Rex Burton was tickled to know the largest storm water management program in town history had spared residents in the affected area.

"We worked to remediate water problems in the area that was hardest hit and that was in the north part of town," Burton said.

Major projects for other areas of town include the Southridge Elementary School neighborhoods, south Kennedy, Lakeside and Main Street west of Indianapolis.

"We have 19 major projects under way to keep the town safe from flooding and sewer problems," Burton said. 

LITTLE CALUMET BRIDGE

A pair of concrete arms that extend into the Little Calumet River just east of the Northcote Avenue bridge will support a gate that spans the river, helping to control the direction and volume along the waterway.

Highland Sanitary Board President Rex Burton said the state of Illinois controls the direction and flow of the Little Calumet. When the locks on the Illinois side are closed, water flows east to Burns Ditch in Portage.

The Indiana gate will have the ability to stop that directional change, if necessary.

UPCOMING STORM WATER PROJECTS

- New storm sewers along Strong.
- New monitoring system for all pumps and rain gauges.
- Upgrade all water meters to remote readers.
- Increase North Drive Pumping Station sewer capacity.
- Improve drainage on Main Street west of Indianapolis.
- Improve sanitary sewers on 41st Lane.
- New sanitary sewers on Kennedy Avenue south of 45th.
- New pump station for Southridge School area.
- Expand storm sewer along Grace from 41st to Ridge.
- Upgrade sanitary sewers in Lakeside.
- New storm and sanitary sewers on Cline south of Ridge.
- Reconstruction of Kleinman Road from Ridge to 45th.



ROTARY CORN ROAST

Join us for all the corn you care to eat. The roast includes hotdog or sausage, sauerkraut, dessert and beverage.

WHEN: 4 to 7:30 p.m. **August 6**

WHERE: Main Square Park

TICKETS: Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the park and are available at Cakes By Karen, Lincoln Center and the Chamber office.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666 or email mary@highlandchamber.com

YOUR COUNCILMAN



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK - president
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

BRIAN NOVAK
bnovak@highland.in.gov
(219) 810-7810



WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER
vice president
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:



GAZEBO EXPRESS IDEAS
c/o Highland Town Hall
3333 Ridge Road
Highland • IN • 46322

gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:
The Idea Factory • (219) 381-0634
www.theideafactory.us.com

INDIANA MAIN STREET

PROGRAM PROVIDES ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ONCE-VIBRANT DOWNTOWNS

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro believes the time may be right for Highland to join the Indiana Main Street program.

Patterned after the national program that bears the same name, Indiana Main Street helps once-vibrant downtowns regain their luster. The program provides economic revitalization and professional assistance to communities that opt-in.

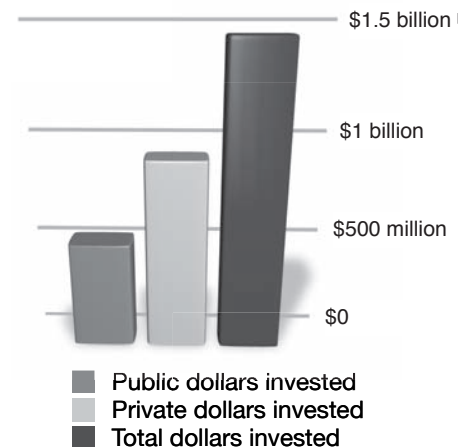
"It used to be that the main street program had such stringent requirements Highland couldn't afford to participate," Petro said. "That isn't the case anymore."

If successful, the town will join other local communities – such as Griffith and Valparaiso – in becoming part of the Indiana Main Street project.

As a participating community, the town could become eligible for enhancement grants to further the vision of the Redevelopment Commission for the Highway and Kennedy avenue corridors.

"There are grant funds out there that can be accessed only by Main Street communities," she said. "By relaxing some of the regulations, they have made this program available to communities like ours."

2009 COMMUNITY FUNDS



BY THE NUMBERS

NEW NET JOBS	144
NEW NET BUSINESSES	520
FACADE REHABILITATIONS	285
NEW CONSTRUCTION	61
NEW HOUSING UNITS	3,079

SOURCE: www.in.gov/ocra/mainstreet

STRIKE DELAYS ROAD PROJECTS

A strike by Ironworkers and Teamsters locals will delay the opening of Cline Avenue by one month and has pushed completion dates back on other road projects in town.

Local Ironworkers struck over wage and benefits in early June. On the heels of the Ironworkers strike, Teamsters took to the picket lines over similar issues. Workers from both bargaining units have returned to work but not before the work stoppage took its toll.

"It looks like it will be August 1 before the bridge work is completed and Cline can be opened to traffic," Public Works Director John Bach said.

The thoroughfare has been closed to traffic from Ridge Road to 45th Street since May when engineers determined the bridge over

OTHER WORK AFFECTED ...

In addition to Cline Avenue, Public Works Director John Bach said the strike has affected the following projects:

- Highland Street between Ridge Road and Highway Avenue.
- Kennedy Avenue from Highway Avenue north to the Little Calumet River.
- Patching projects planned throughout town

the Cady Marsh ditch was in such poor shape it could not support traffic during construction to replace the aging structure.

Bridge replacement and widening is a vital component of the project to reconstruct the two-mile stretch of Cline Avenue.

ANTIQUE POWER & STEAM SHOW HIGHLIGHTS FARMING HISTORY

Growing up on a farm in rural Crown Point, Dale Bieker learned early on the value innovations, such as tractors, brought to his family. Today, the Highland resident waxes nostalgic about the technologies that made it possible for Northwest Indiana family farms to till, plant and harvest vast tracts of rich loam as they helped build the region.

As president of the South Lake County Agricultural Historical Society, Bieker believes it is his job and the job of those like him to share the antiquities of the region's past with its current residents.

To help tell the story of the region's architectural heritage, Bieker and members of the group have collected and restored dozens of antique tractors along with other farm equipment to its original luster.

The society will be showcasing its stash of equipment at the 26th annual Antique Power & Steam Show July 9, 10 and 11 at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

"The first time my husband visited a show that featured tractors and farm equipment on the lawn of the old Lake County Courthouse, he was hooked," Cindy Bieker said. "That was in the 1980s."

Since that time, the show has outgrown that location. Today, the show attracts residents from throughout the region who want to learn more about the lifestyle and see the vintage equipment in action.

Throughout the growing season, members



ABOUT THE SHOW

This year's 26th Antique Power & Steam Show will feature equipment manufactured by Massey, Allis-Chalmers, Rumely and Galloway. They were to farmers what Henry Ford was to commuters.

In addition to farming tool demonstrations, the show will feature threshing and baling, corn shelling and grinding, horseshoeing, rock crushing as well as a working blacksmith shop.

Kid-friendly events include a community-sized model railroad set, kiddie tractor pull, farm toy show, tractor train and moon jump.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 9, 10 and 11


WHERE: Lake County Fairgrounds, one mile south of the old Courthouse on the corner of Court Street and Greenwood Avenue.

COST: \$5 per adult; kids 16 and under are free.

SPECIAL NOTE: A chicken dinner will be held Saturday evening from 4 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$9.

INFO: Call (219) 662-9204 or www.slcahs.org.

of the society till, plant and harvest from a 10-acre tract using the vintage equipment.

"This is the way life was," Dale Bieker said. "It's an important piece of our history." 

LINCOLN CENTER ON FAST TRACK FOR COMPLETION


Construction on the first phase of the \$10 million Lincoln Center project will begin Sept. 1, four months ahead of schedule.

Alex Brown, superintendent of Parks and Recreation, said advancing the timetable is necessary for the project to be completed by November 2011.

"This timetable is going to be best for everyone who uses Lincoln Center because it will create the least disruption in services," Brown said. "We are pleased at how well all of the pieces of this project are coming together."

A new wing – containing a fitness center, dance/aerobics studio, lobby, lounge, bathrooms and nine multi-purpose classrooms – will be constructed east of the existing building during the initial phase. That work is scheduled for completion by June 2011.

The second phase will involve tearing down the existing north and east arms of the former school. New construction will replace the old up to the current gymnasium.

During Phase II, the existing kitchen, old gym, locker rooms and bathrooms also will be rehabbed. 

IMPROVING TEST SCORES

Highland Schools are celebrating. Statewide test scores show that Highland students helped catapult the district to one of the top 40 school districts in Indiana.

Highland is ranked 38th of 327 school districts in the percentage of third through eighth graders who passed both the English/language arts and mathematics portions of the test.

In all, 76.67 percent of Highland students passed both sections of the test compared to 70.97 percent who passed both sections last year.

SETTING PET GUIDELINES

Members of the Town Council plan to begin a discussion in July over the number of domesticated animals that can be housed at any given address.

The town does not regulate the number of pets in a household.

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said recent instances prompted the action.

Because residents were housing dozens of animals in their homes, Hojnicky felt it was time the town created guidelines to protect the health and welfare of all residents as well as their pets.

CLEARING TAX HURDLES

Circle Buick GMC has cleared the first of several hurdles necessary to receive a tax abatement on improvements to ready its new location at 2440-45th Avenue for use as an automobile dealership.

The land and building have most recently been used as a sporting goods store.

The auto dealership will move from Schererville to Highland before the end of the summer to better serve an expanding client base that includes Northwest Indiana and south suburban Chicago. The dealership carries vehicles manufactured by Oldsmobile, GM and Lexus.

SHOPPING THE MARKET

From fruits and vegetables to homemade crafts, you'll find a little bit of everything at our weekly street market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at Main Square Park.



TOUR DE HIGHLAND BIKE TOUR

This is not a race or a test of stamina. This is a chance for Highland residents to enjoy a day of bicycling through our hometown. Lunch with live entertainment will be provided at the registration site (the Municipal Parking Lot) to all participants (you must be wearing the wrist band to receive food). Friends and families may join the riders for lunch for \$5 (they will be given a wrist band upon payment).

WHEN: 10 a.m. August 7

WHERE: Check-in begins at 9 a.m.

at the Municipal Parking Lot — southwest corner of Kennedy and Highway avenues. The tour starts at 10 a.m. and is expected to last about 90 minutes.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:

4:30 p.m. **July 29**

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 includes T-shirt and lunch

REGISTRATION FORMS:

www.highland.gov/100

MORE INFO: Call Pat Popa at (219) 689-6559 or Peggy Glennie at (219) 923-7895.

3V3 SOCCER TOURNEY

Come out and cheer on your favorite players — U8 to U19 — as they compete in the Highland Soccer Club's 17th annual 3V3 tournament.

WHEN: **July 17** (rain date July 18)

WHERE: Sharp Athletic Complex

INFO: www.highlandsoccer.org

MOVIE IN THE PARK

Everyone is invited for a free showing of *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs!*

WHEN: 8:30 pm or dusk **July 23**

WHERE: Main Square Park

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Deadline to register for fall Little League is **July 23**. Divisions are:

T-BALL/ROOKIE: Ages 4-6

MINOR B: Ages 6-8

MINOR A: Ages 8-10

MAJORS: Ages 9-12

TO REGISTER: Call HLL President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945

WHITE SOX TRAINING CAMPS

Camp 1 focuses on throwing, hitting, bunting, fielding, pitching and base running. Camp 2 builds on the basics.

WHEN: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. **July 12-16**

STC 1: Ages 7 to 8

STC 2: Ages 9 through 12

WHERE: Sharp Athletic Complex

APPLICATIONS: Available at Lincoln Center and www.bullssoxacademy.com

FEE: \$199 per player

INFO: Call (630) PLAYBAL

CHICAGO BULLS ACADEMY

Improve every aspect of your basketball game including ball handling, shooting, passing, and individual offensive moves.

WHEN: **July 19-23**

ROOKIES: 8 to 11 a.m.

VETERANS: noon to 3 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Center

APPLICATIONS: Available at Lincoln Center and www.bullssoxacademy.com

FEE: \$199 per player

INFO: Call (630) PLAYBAL

CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

Get ready to tee-off at the 2010 golf outing sponsored by the Highland and Griffith chambers of commerce.

WHEN: 11 a.m. registration/lunch, noon shotgun start, 5 p.m. dinner **July 30**

WHERE: Wicker Park

FEE: \$95 per person includes lunch, golf, cart, dinner and goody bag.

CONTESTS: \$25 cash prize at each hole, Skins Game, Beat the Banker and more.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666